



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNOUNCE BASIC REGULATIONS FOR SHOOTING OF DOVES, RAILS, AND GALLINULES

Containing a number of changes, the basic regulations by flyways which will be in effect during the 1954-55 season for the shooting of doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, gallinules, and the taking in certain open costal waters of scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

This portion of the proposed annual revision of the hunting regulations for these species, as released today, specified September 1, 1954, to January 10, 1955, as the starting and closing dates within which framework the State game departments themselves are to make a selection of the seasons they desire. The specific season dates for the various States will be published later.

Although the regulations released today contain those for the shooting of waterfowl in Alaska, where the season in certain areas begins as early as September 1, Secretary McKay stated that the detailed regulations for the hunting of migratory waterfowl, coots, jacksnipe, and woodcock in the United States will not be issued until the latter part of August.

Briefly stated by the Secretary, these are the proposed changes in the regulations:

The length of the season and the possession limit for rails (other than sora) and gallinules will be relaxed in the Atlantic Flyway States. This year the possession limit in these States will be raised to two daily bag limits, or 30 birds. Last year the daily bag limit as well as the possession limit of these birds was 15. In addition it is proposed to increase the length of the seasons on rails and gallinules in these States by 10 days, thus making the 1954-55 season continue for 70 days.

These regulations would also permit the State game departments of States located east of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (except Missouri and Illinois), to select a season on doves consisting of 30 consecutive full days or two periods of 15 consecutive full days each, or 40 consecutive half-days, or two periods of 20 consecutive half-days each, beginning at 12 o'clock noon. Last year the seasons on mourning doves in these States were 30 consecutive half-days, or two periods of 15 consecutive half-days each.

The seasons on doves in Illinois and Missouri will be increased from 30 to 35 consecutive full days.

In the remaining States, except Texas, State game departments will be permitted to select a season on mourning doves of 40 consecutive days, or two periods of 20

consecutive days each. This represents an increase in the length of the seasons except in Arizona and New Mexico where a 42-day season was prescribed last year.

In Texas the season length of 40 half-days in each of two zones, beginning at 12 o'clock noon, on mourning doves will remain the same as last year, but the shooting of white-winged doves in that State will be entirely discontinued this year.

The season for hunting band-tailed pigeons in the eight northern counties of California (Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, and Tehama) will extend from October 1 to 31, an increase of 15 days over last year's season which was October 16 to 31. In the remainder of the State the season will be December 1 to 31, the same as last year. In Oregon and Washington the seasons on these birds remain unchanged, from September 1 to 30. The daily bag and possession limits of six birds are the same as last year.

In Alaska the waterfowl and coot seasons will remain unchanged except that old-squaw and harlequin ducks are added to the species which can be taken from September 1 to December 15. These regulations also provide for a 15-day season on Jacksnipe in the Territory.

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